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Written Testimony Submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee in  
Support of SB 10: An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change

March 5, 2020

To the Honorable Senator Needleman, the Honorable Representative Arconti, and Distinguished Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

We write from the Collaborative Center for Justice, which is a faith-based advocacy organization based in Hartford. We are sponsored by six Congregations of Women Religious across the state.

We are writing in **support** of SB 10: An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change. We believe that the Connecticut General Assembly must pass bold, comprehensive, and just legislation this session to address climate change. Passing legislation such as this that will require the state to substantially reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and move to a zero-carbon electric sector by 2040 is a critical component of mitigating the impacts and trajectory of climate change. Creating more pathways to increase energy storage capabilities is an important component of building an energy system that can rely more heavily on clean and renewable energy.

We believe that equity and environmental justice should be central to the conversation about moving to a 100% zero-carbon electric sector. Low-income communities and communities of color already disproportionately bear the burden of environmental degradation and impacts from climate change. These communities should be prioritized in the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to reduce the suffering that these communities have faced from environmental hazards as quickly as possible.

We appreciate that this bill also seeks to address emissions from vehicles by studying the energy and environmental impacts of adopting and implementing California's medium and heavy duty vehicle emissions standards, and then moving to do so if deemed necessary to meet the state's emissions reductions requirements. Reductions in vehicle emissions would not only have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of communities located near our busy highways, but also on the state as a whole, since we know that polluted air does not stay in one place.

As people of faith, we are called to care for the earth and all of its inhabitants. We understand the earth as our common home, and we know we must take collective action to protect its integrity for this and future generations. We believe that passing strong legislation to address climate change, such as this bill, is an important part of protecting human and ecological health.

We thank you for considering the health and wellbeing of the residents of Connecticut, particularly the most vulnerable, as well as the care of our earth when you vote on this important bill.

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Daughters of the Holy Spirit \* Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception \* Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery \* Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province \* Sisters of Mercy of the Americas \* Northeast Community \* Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur of the United States East-West Province

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support of SB 10: An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwayne David Paul – Director

Rachel Lea Scott, MSW – Associate Director